

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CANADIAN AMBASSADOR JAY
ON ILO

FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

FOR SECY MAYNES, MESSRS DALLEY AND MILLS, IO

S/IL FOR DALE GOOD

PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, MR. SAMUEL, MR. QUACKENBUSH

PASS COMMERCE FOR SECY KREPS

1. IN A GENERAL REVIEW OF ILO ISSUES JANUARY 10 WITH
CANADIAN AMBASSADOR JAY, WHO IS ALSO CONVENER OF THE
IMEC GROUP, I LEARNED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CANADIAN
POSITION ITSELF HAS NOT YET JELLED, THE SENTIMENT AMONG
ALL THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES APPEARS TO BE MOVING
TOWARD THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND OUTLINE NOW BEING
ADVANCED BY THE EC-9. AS PLANS PRESENTLY STAND, THE EC
WILL MEET THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 TO PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES
ON THEIR PAPER, AFTER WHICH IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT
CANADA WILL CALL AN IMEC MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16

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FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DISTRIBUTING THE EC-9 PAPER.
THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER IMEC MEETING ON
JANUARY 23 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEING WHETHER THE EC
PROPOSAL COULD NOT BECOME AN IMEC PROPOSAL. IN THE
MEANTIME, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THE EC-9 MAY CIRCULATE
THEIR PAPER TO THE G-77 COUNTRIES AS WELL IN VIEW OF
THE COMMITMENT THAT THEY HAVE MADE TO COME UP WITH A

PROPOSAL AND THE TIME PRESSURES THAT ARE ON THEM.

2. JAY SAID THAT THERE WAS AN ENORMOUS FUND OF GOODWILL TOWARD THE UNITED STATES ON THE PART OF ALL AND AN EARNEST HOPE THAT AN ENVIRONMENT CAN BE CREATED THAT WOULD ENABLE THE US TO RETURN. AS FAR AS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, THEY, THEREFORE, WOULD NOT WISH TO SUPPORT ANY POSITION WHICH THE US WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT. HE FELT THAT ALL IMEC COUNTRIES WOULD FEEL THE SAME WAY BUT STRESSED, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT THEY HAD THEIR OWN LABOR MOVEMENTS TO SATISFY AND THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THE TIME HAD ARRIVED TO NEGOTIATE THE STRUCTURE QUESTION AND THAT CHANGE WAS, THEREFORE, INEVITABLE.

3. ON THIS LATTER POINT, JOE MORRIS SAID TODAY (JANUARY 10) THAT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING ISSUES NOW BECAUSE THE G-77 HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY SHAKEN BY THE US WITHDRAWAL THAT THEY WILL SETTLE FOR THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR. IF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES DO NOT SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE BEST DEAL POSSIBLE WHILE THE ATMOSPHERE IS GOOD, IT WILL VERY LIKELY TURN BITTER AGAIN AS TIME GOES ON AND POSITIONS WILL THEN HARDEN AND BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. JAY BELIEVES THAT THE 77 WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THE BROAD OUTLINE OF THE EC-9 PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH THE DETAILS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT.

4. THE REAL PROBLEM, OF COURSE, IS THAT WHILE PEOPLE WANT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO RETURN, THEY DO NOT KNOW, AND WE CANNOT TELL THEM, SPECIFICALLY WHAT OUR BOTTOM LINE IS. THEY, THEREFORE, FEEL THAT THE ONLY WAY TO PROCEED WILL BE ON THE BASIS OF THE OUTLINE OF THE EC-9 PROPOSAL WHICH CONSISTS OF BASIC PRINCIPLES AND THAT IF THE US WISHES TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, IT SHOULD NOT TRY TO CROSS THE T'S AND DOT THE I'S BUT SHOULD INDICATE RATHER QUICKLY WHETHER IT HAS BASIC PROBLEMS WITH ANY OF THE LARGER BASIC PRINCIPLES. ON THE QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF REGIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, EVERYONE AGREES THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE ONLY FOUR REGIONS. BUT IT IS ALSO FELT THAT ULTIMATELY THE IMEC COUNTRIES MAY HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH MORE THAN FOUR REGIONS. IN FACT, IN THE CASE OF AUSTRALIA AND SOME OF THE SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THERE ARE PERCEIVED ADVANTAGES TO HAVING MORE THAN FOUR REGIONS. THE SENSE OF AMBASSADOR JAY'S FEELING WAS, THEREFORE, THAT IF THE CRUNCH WERE TO COME ON THIS BROAD PRINCIPLE, WE WOULD FIND THAT THERE IS NO REAL STOMACH TO HOLD

STRICTLY TO FOUR REGIONS IF A NEGOTIATION CAN SUCCEED
BY EXPANDING IT TO FIVE OR SIX.

5. A PRINCIPLE TO WHICH EVERYONE CONTINUES TO ADHERE IS
THE INVIOABILITY OF THE WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS.
WHATEVER CHANGE COMES ABOUT IN THEIR STATUS MUST BE
BROUGHT ABOUT BY THESE GROUPS THEMSELVES, UNAFFECTED BY
NEGOTIATIONS AMONG GOVERNMENTS. JAY FELT THAT, SO LONG
AS THIS PRINCIPLE IS FOLLOWED AND OTHER STRUCTURAL
CHANGES REMAIN WITHIN SOME REASONABLE FRAMEWORK THAT
YIELDS THE MINIMUM REAL CHANGE NEGOTIABLE, THE IMEC
COUNTRIES WILL HAVE DONE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN AND IT
WILL THEN BE UP TO US. VANDEN HEUVEL

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